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SONIC UNIVERSE™

SPARK
OF LIFE
4
OF 4

WOLDS
UNITE
IN **2**

SONIC UNIVERSE | 74

**BATTLE FOR
THE
DIGITAL REALM!**

*Tracy Yardley &
Jim Amash
Hunzeker*



Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games!
Where Nicole, the artificial intelligence, is finally confronted by a mysterious being ...



**CHARACTER
= SELECT =**



**PRINCESS
SALLY ACORN**
FREEDOM FIGHTER LEADER



**NICOLE THE
HOLD-LYNX**
ADVANCED A.I.



DR. ELLIDY
NICOLE'S CREATOR



PHAGE
ALL-CONSUMING A.I.

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

A VICIOUS VIRUS

Phage, Dr. Eggman's rogue A.I., is out to steal the mysterious Red Star Rings and a nearby Chaos Emerald from Isolated Island. She's taken over Dr. Ellidy's computer system, and now the island is overrun by vicious robots!

With Nicole at Phage's mercy, Princess Sally uses the Digitizer to access the system and attempt to stop the threat at its source --

before it's too late...



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THE DIGITAL WORLD,
WITHIN THE COMPUTER
SYSTEM OF DR. ELLIDY...

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
THINKER.

A STRATEGIST.

A TACTICIAN!

NOW YOU'RE
BOTH MINE TO
EXAMINE!

TO TAKE
APART!

TO ABSORB!

NICOLE--
RUN!

GET OUT OF
THE SYSTEM!

SPARK OF LIFE

PART FOUR

PLOT: IAN FLYNN / SCRIPT: ALEAH BAKER / PENCILS: TRACY YARDLEY / INKS: JIM AMASH

COLORS: MATT HERMS / LETTERS: JACK MORELLI

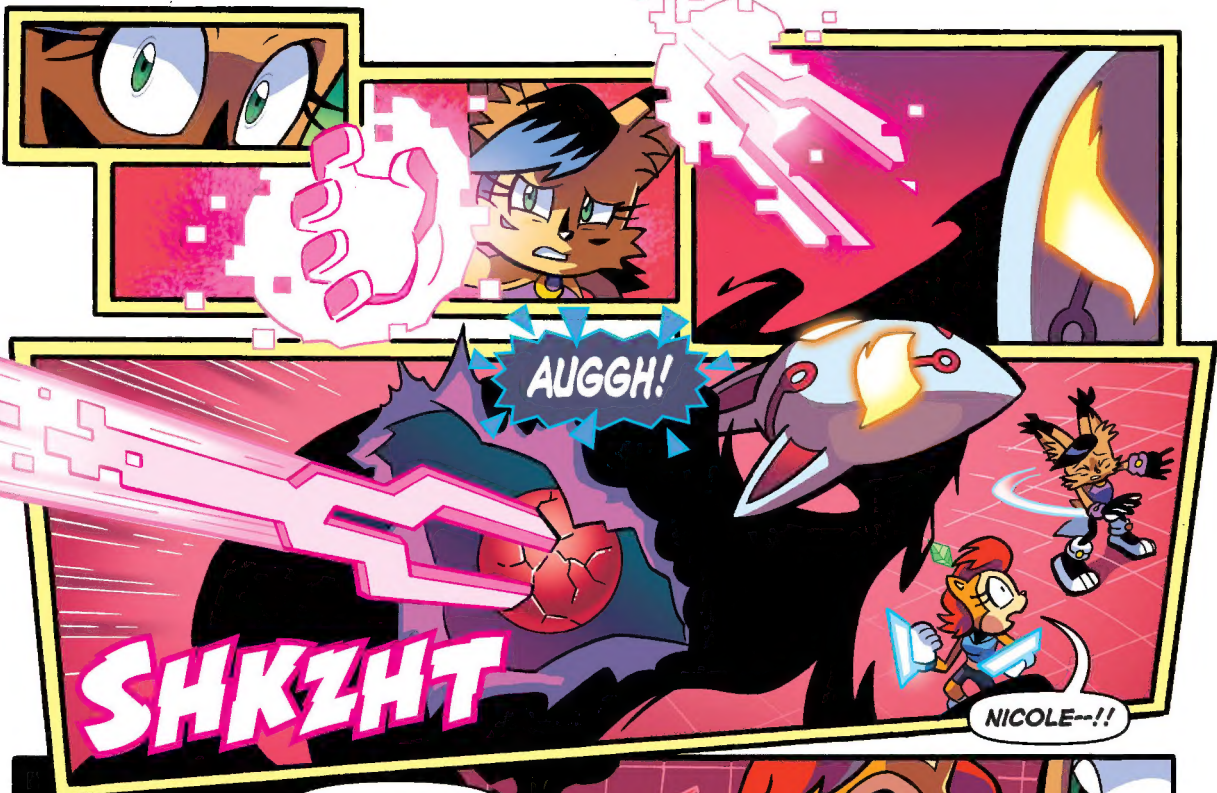
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and LICENSING DEPARTMENT of SEGA CORPORATION



AUGGH!

NICOLE--!!

SHKZHT



QUICK, IF WE CAN DISABLE HER, THE BADNIKS WILL STOP--

...YOU...



...INSOLENT...

...SAVAGE...



...RUDE...



WHAT THE--

OW!

GET BACK!

I'LL
TEAR YOU
DOWN TO THE
LAST BIT OF
CODING!!

GRRRRRAAAAAAAAAUUUUUGH!!

...SO DID
NOT SEE THIS
COMING...

OKAY, SPLIT UP/
ESCAPE TO YOUR
COMPUTER! I'LL
GET OUT VIA THE
DIGITIZER, AND
WE'LL SHUT EVERY-
THING DOWN AND
TAKE THIS
MONSTER
WITH IT!

NICOLE??
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

MEANWHILE, IN THE REAL WORLD...

THERE!
THERE! WE
MADE IT!

LET'S FIND THE
CHAOS EMERALDS
BEFORE PHAGE'S
BADNIKS CATCH
UP!

AND THOSE
DARK GAIA
MONSTERS...

THOSE
TOO.

...WHERE
DO WE
START?

IN THE
LAKE?

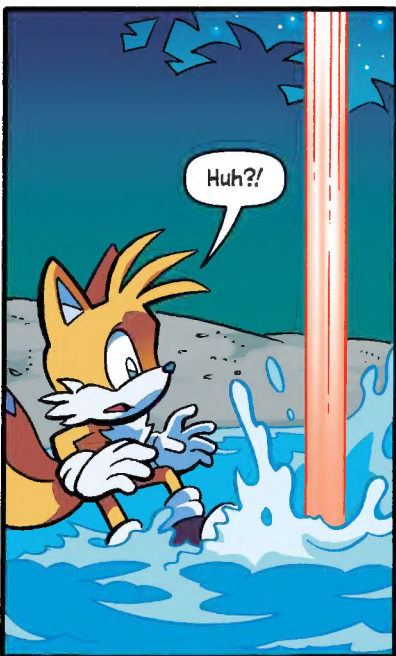
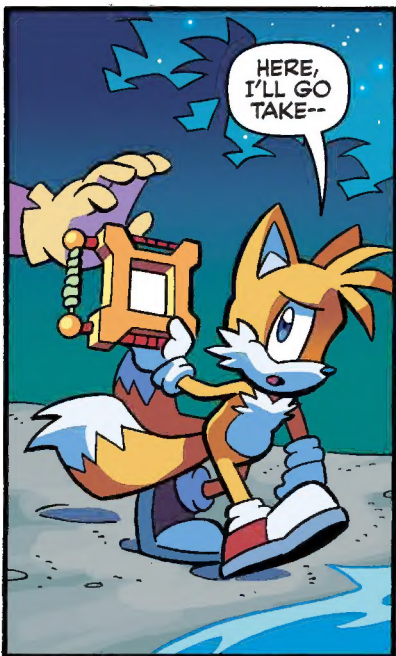
THAT...
ACTUALLY
SEEMS TO
BE THE
CASE.

YAY! I'M A
GENIUS!

GAH!

HERE,
I'LL GO
TAKE--

Huh?!

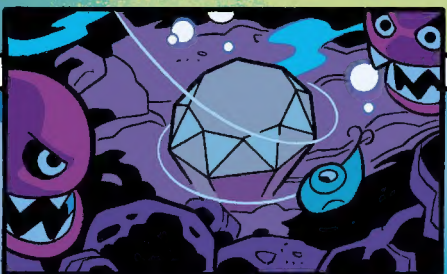




OKAY, SWIMMING'S NO GOOD...



I GOT IT!



HOW DID YOU DO THAT?!

PRACTICE.

QUICK, LET'S GET BACK TO DR. ELLIDY AND--



CRUNCH!

Oh, NO!

MEANWHILE...



WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? WE WERE SUPPOSED TO SPLIT UP!

YOU DID IT AGAIN! PUTTING YOURSELF IN DANGER--

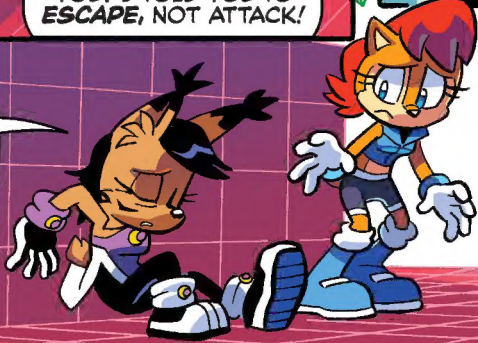
WHAT ABOUT YOU? I TOLD YOU TO ESCAPE, NOT ATTACK!



ESCAPE TO *WHERE?* I CAN'T REACH MY COMPUTER. DON'T YOU THINK I TRIED?

PHAGE WOULDN'T LET ME.

...BUT THAT'S THE LOGICAL EXPLANATION. IT'S NOT THE REAL ONE.



I DIDN'T RUN BECAUSE I COULDN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF LEAVING YOU TO GET HURT. I ACTED...



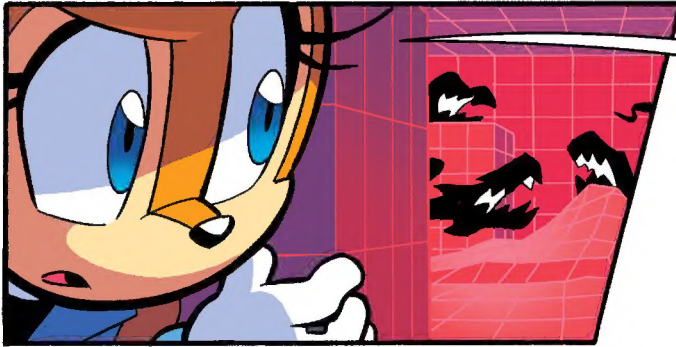
RECKLESSLY.

...YES. I SUPPOSE SO.

I DON'T EVEN LIKE FIGHTING...



WE'LL FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS. WE ALWAYS DO, RIGHT?



I THINK A **DIRECT** FIGHT IS OUT, THOUGH.

URGH, IF I COULD JUST FLY LIKE YOU DID BACK THERE...!



SALLY, THE DIGITIZER INTERPRETS THE SYSTEM IN A WAY THAT YOUR MIND CAN UNDERSTAND.

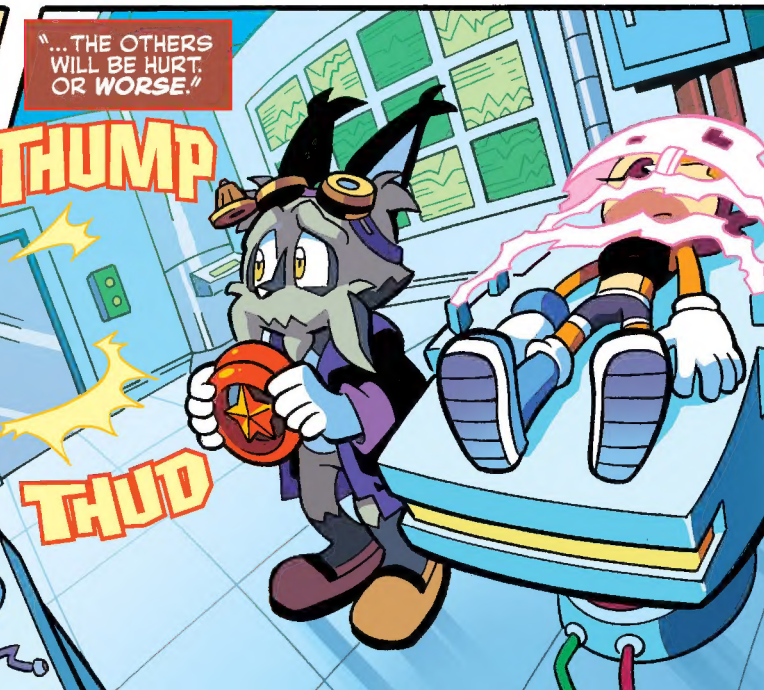
IN HERE, YOU **COULD** FLY, BUT YOU DON'T **BELIEVE** YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO.

IT'S A **PSYCHOLOGICAL** BLOCK.



GREAT. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TIME TO RETRAIN MY BRAIN LIKE THAT.

IF WE DON'T STOP PHAGE SOON...



...THE OTHERS WILL BE HURT, OR WORSE..!

THUMP

THUD



OKAY, SO PHAGE HAS PREVENTED EITHER OF US FROM GETTING OUT THE WAY WE CAME IN...WHAT ABOUT THE DIGITAL WORLD?

IT'S STILL CONNECTED TO THIS SYSTEM, BUT TO WHAT END? YOU CAN'T SURVIVE IN ANY DIGITAL WORLD INDEFINITELY, AND PHAGE WILL JUST FOLLOW US ANYWAY.



NOT "US." ME.



YOU CAN'T--!

I'M NOT! TRUST ME. EARLIER, TAILS WAS PLAYING WITH SOMETHING IN THE LAB... ONE OF DR. ELLIDY'S RING INVENTIONS...

I NEED YOU TO RECREATE IT HERE FOR US.



I HAVE A PLAN.

WHERE ARE YOU, YOU LITTLE WRETCHES?!

BRATS!

SCOUNDRELS!

ACTUALLY, IT'S "PRINCESS,"

YOU!

YOU MISSED YOUR CHANCE TO PULL APART DR. ELLIDY'S CODING,* AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ME, EITHER!

C'MOOOONNNN... THIS ISN'T THE REAL WORLD, I SHOULD BE AS FAST AS SONIC IF I WANT TO BE...! STUPID OVERLY-LOGICAL BRAIN!

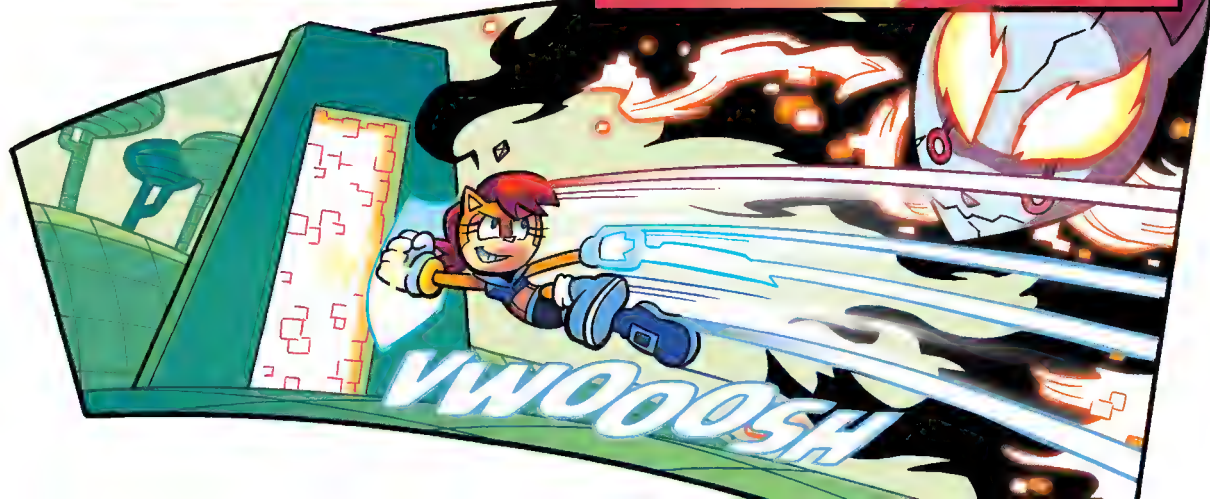
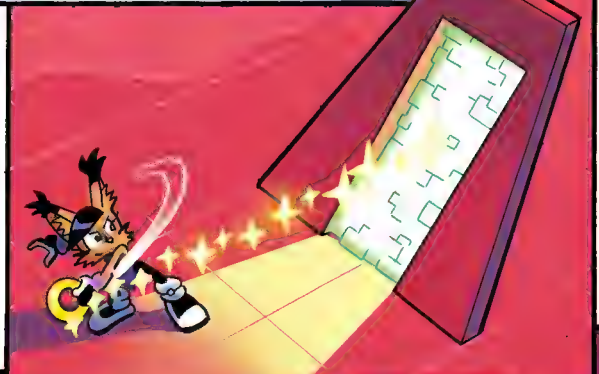


WHAT NOW, PRINCESS?!

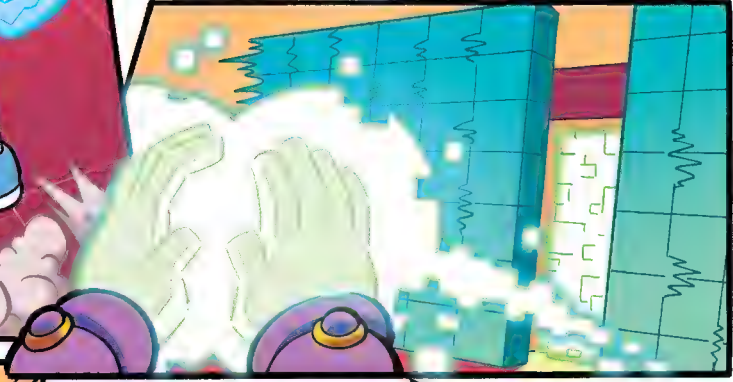
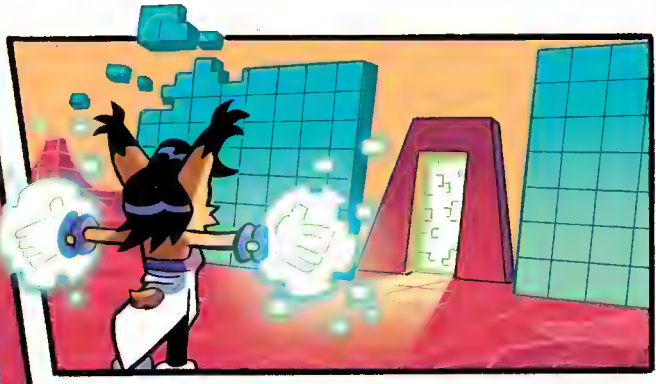
YOU COULDN'T STOP ME IN THE DOCTOR'S SYSTEM! YOU THINK YOU HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST ME HERE?!

NOT AT ALL.

NICOLE!



IF WE CAN'T FIGHT YOU,
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO
KICK YOU OUT!



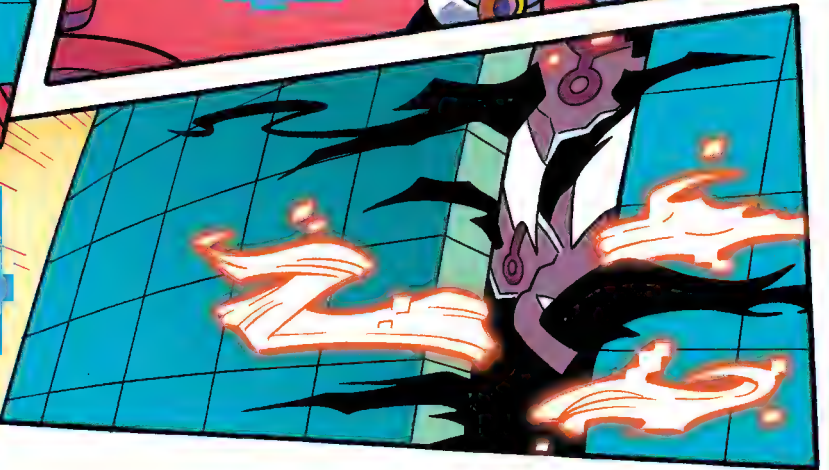
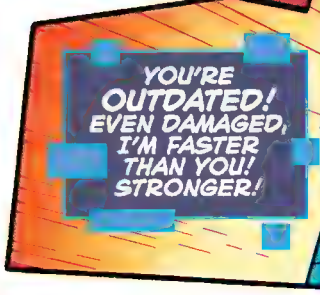
HOW DARE YOU?!



YOU CAN'T--

YOU WON'T--

YOU'RE
OUTDATED!
EVEN DAMAGED,
I'M FASTER
THAN YOU!
STRONGER!





YOU CAN'T STOP ME! THE RINGS! THE RESEARCH! IT'S ALL MINE!



THE CHAOS EMERALD BELONGS TO ME! ME! DO YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT THE PHYSICAL WORLD?!!

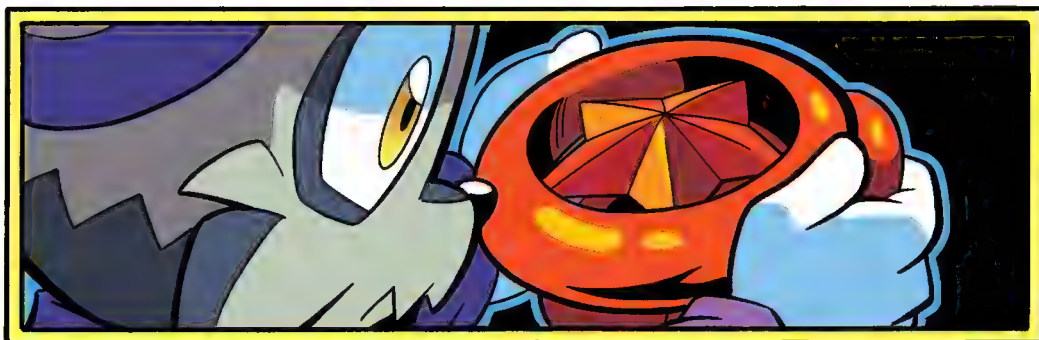


IF I DON'T HAVE SOMETHING WORTHY TO BRING BACK, DR. EGGMAN WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME FOR MY PAST MISTAKES!

SO...

STOP..

INTERFERING!





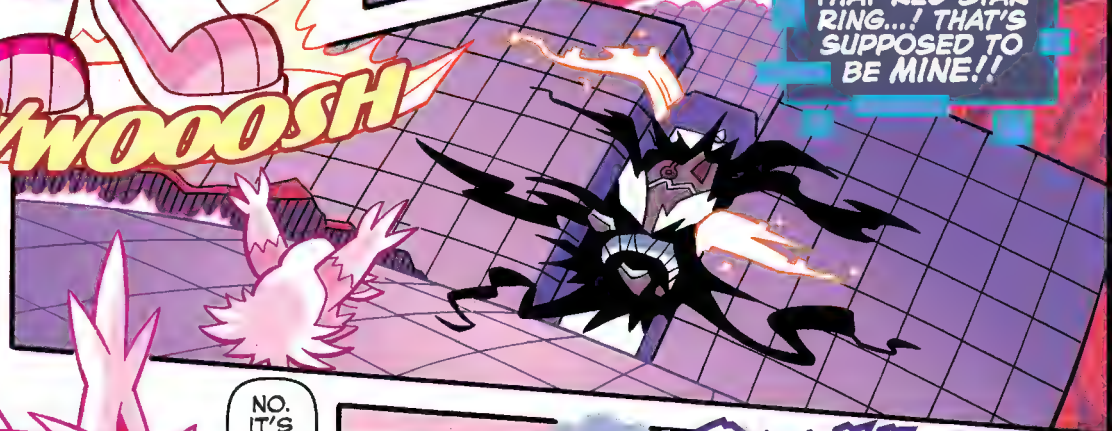
Oh.

OVERCLOCKED NICOLE



THAT POWER...
THAT RED STAR
RING...! THAT'S
SUPPOSED TO
BE MINE!!

Wwoooooosh

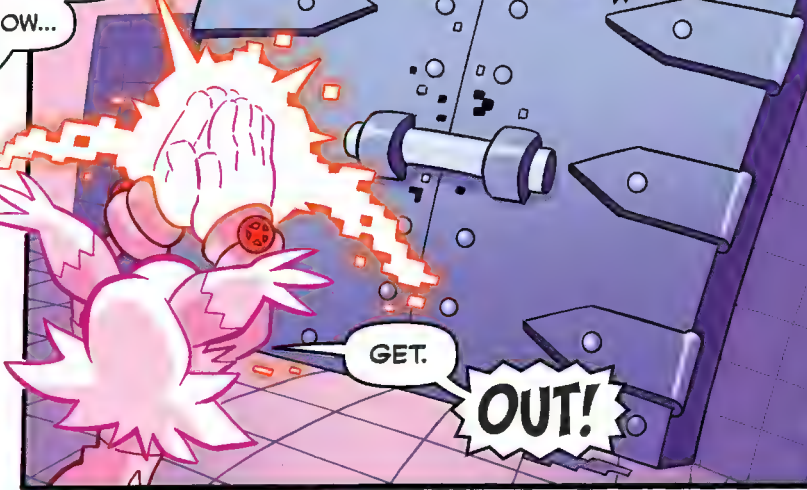


NO. IT'S NOT.

AND YOU'RE NOT WELCOME HERE.

NOW...

KA-CHUNG



GET.

OUT!



NICOLE, THAT WAS AMAZING! I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!

I...I ONLY SHUT HER OUT OF THIS SYSTEM. PHAGE IS WEAKENED, BUT SHE'S STILL OUT THERE.

STILL... I DON'T THINK SHE'LL BE COMING BACK ANY TIME SOON.



DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT. YOU SAVED US ALL!

AFTER YOU SAVED ME.

THE NEXT DAY...

GOT A MESSAGE FROM ROTOR! LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO CATCH UP TO THEM IN APOTOS.*

IN A PATOS? INSTEAD OF IN THE PLANE?

"APOTOS." ONE WORD.

IT'S A PLACE.

Oh.

*SEE SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #272, COMING SOON!

WELL, WE'RE ABOUT TO HEAD OUT.

THANKS AGAIN FOR GIVING US ONE OF THE RED STAR RINGS. WHEN I SAID NICOLE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE ONE,** I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D END UP SAVING US WITH IT!

**SU #72

I'M SURE YOU'LL PUT IT TO GOOD USE, SAVING THE WORLD AND ALL...

...Heh...IMAGINE, A CHAOS EMERALD--HERE--RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE. AND I COULDN'T TELL WHY THE RED STAR RINGS WERE FORMING...MAYBE I OUGHT TO RETIRE FOR GOOD!

WELL, I GUESS I CAN'T TELL YOU NOT TO DO ANYTHING RISKY, SO I'LL JUST WISH YOU GOOD LUCK. SAY HEY TO YOUR DAD FOR ME.

I WILL.

AND, PRINCESS... ONE MORE THING...





I'M SORRY,
I'VE GOT TO SAY
SOMETHING.

NICOLE--

I
ALREADY
KNOW.



WHAT?

ABOUT
DR. ELLIDY'S
DAUGHTER...NIKKI.
ABOUT...WHY I
WAS CREATED.

WHEN I WAS
HIDING FROM PHAGE,
I FOUND SEVERAL
OLD FILES AND...



I KNOW. BUT I WAS CREATED BECAUSE
DR. ELLIDY WAS TRYING TO SAVE HIS DAUGHTER'S
LIFE...HOPING THAT IF HER BODY FAILED, HER MIND
WOULD LIVE ON. AN EARLY VERSION OF THE
DIGITIZER...

AS AN A.I., I WAS TO
SCAN OUT A NEURAL NETWORK
FOR HER TO ADAPT TO...BUT SHE
NEVER GOT THE CHANCE.

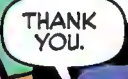
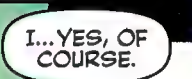
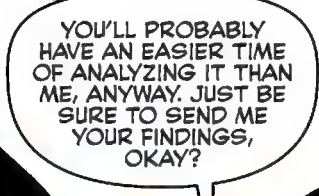
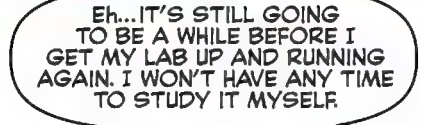
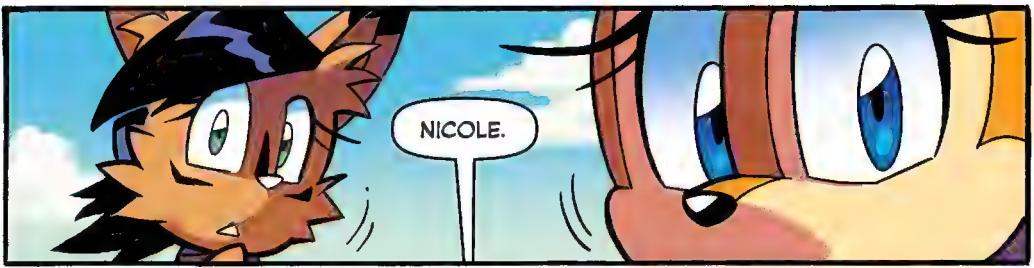
I...I THINK IT WAS
I WHO ADAPTED TO THE SCANS
INSTEAD OF HER. A DIGITAL VERSION
OF AN ORGANIC MIND...IT EXPLAINS *HOW*
I WAS ABLE TO DEVELOP FROM WHAT I
USED TO BE, DOESN'T IT?

MY
POTENTIAL
FOR GROWTH
...CAME AT
THE COST OF
NIKKI'S
LIFE.

THEREFORE...
I UNDERSTAND
IF DR. ELLIDY
DOESN'T WISH
TO INTERACT
WITH ME. SO
FOR NOW--

NICOLE, IT'S NOT
YOUR FAULT THAT SHE
DIDN'T MAKE IT. YOU
WEREN'T EVEN...YOU
THEN.







LET'S GET GOING!

WELL, THEN... I GUESS YOU'LL RIDE THE WAY BACK IN YOUR HANDHELD...?

ACTUALLY...



I THINK THAT, TODAY, I'D LIKE TO FEEL THE WIND ON MY FACE.



PHAGE HAS BEEN THWARTED!

BUT THE FATHER/DAUGHTER REUNION WILL HAVE TO WAIT, BECAUSE THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES IMMEDIATELY IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #272, COMING SOON! PLUS, THE RACE IS ON BETWEEN SONIC AND METAL SONIC IN OUR 75TH ISSUE OF SONIC UNIVERSE!

UNTIL NEXT TIME, DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST AND GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY! ALL THAT AND THE BRAND NEW COMEDY SERIES

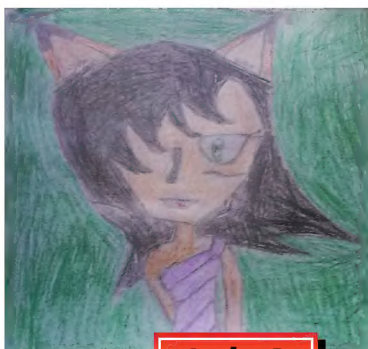
SONIC BOOM

MY SONIC UNIVERSE™

FAN ART



Katelyn G. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



Lola A.
from Virginia



Connor L.
from California



Isaiah H.
from Virginia

HEY, KIDS!

LOVE "OFF PANEL"?
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OFF PANEL

SPARK OF LIFE



SCRIPT: ERIC ESQUIVEL PENCILS: AGNES BARBOWSKA INKS: JIM AMASH COLORS: VINCENT LOVALLO



MY SONIC UNIVERSE™

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SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM
OR TWEET AT US USING #MYSONICUNIVERSE!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
Hello!

Hey!

This is my second time writing fan mail, hope it finds you well!

It did! It even said hello to me!

Last time I was asking about Nicole and her backstory and was really excited to hear about Spark of Life! I have been hovering by my mailbox waiting for new issues to arrive and I have loved every minute of it!

That's dedication right there! So did you hijack the Egg Mobile so you could hover over your mail box?

On top of that, the current "Champions" story in the other comic line is also keeping me on my toes! Keep up the amazing plots!

Sulla :3 sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the letter, Sulla!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'

Hi, I started buying Sonic Universe

comics for my 7 y/o and 11 y/o sons, Connor and Brodie. Connor saw your page for fan art and decided to draw a picture of Tails.

We got the picture! Check out Connor's sweet Tails fan art on the previous page!

I'm sure more are to come, but it sure would make his day to see his first picture printed in a future comic. We've established a subscription at a local comic book store and look forward to reading what's to come.

We'd love to see more of Connor's work! That's fantastic, we hope Connor and Brodie enjoy our upcoming stories!

Thanks for making a great, kid-friendly comic I can enjoy with my children.

James L.
from Californina

Thanks for the kind words, James!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'

Hey there, big fan of the comic, I'll

have the usual.

I see you're one of our regulars!

I really only have one question: is Dulcy coming back? I miss her, and ever since Nicole mentioned that Sally inspired her after the reboot, I've been waiting for her to come back. I hope that if she does, she becomes a permanent Freedom Fighter aboard the Sky Patrol. Thank you!

-Nicklas W. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for writing in, Nicklas! On the subject of Dulcy, I can't really say. Only Mr. Ian Flynn knows the real answer! Though I will say, with the recent appearances of characters like Breezie, Honey and a few other classic characters, anything is possible! :D

That's all the room we have! Come on back next month for a furious chase between Sonic and one of his fastest and most dangerous enemies!

COMING SOON!

MEGA MAN™
ISSUE 48
"THE ULTIMATE BETRAYAL"
MEGA MAN 45-48

SONIC BOOM™
ISSUE 6
"STICKS & STONES"
SONIC BOOM 6

SONIC™
THE HEDGEHOG™
ISSUE 271
"CHAMPIONS"
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 268-271

NEXT ISSUE...



SONIC
UNIVERSE™ **75**